GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1359
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2008
RETENTION PERIOD IN CARE HOMES /ORPHANAGES
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether care homes and orphanages keep children upto the age of 18 only;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to provide for retention of orphans in care homes and orphanages for some more years in view of the fact that such boys and girls do not complete their education to enable them to obtain gainful employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) As per the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, a child is defined as a person who has not completed 18 years of age. Accordingly, the children's homes which are established and maintained by the State Governments/UT Administrations under this Act, either by themselves, or in association with the voluntary organizations, for children in need of care and protection keep these children upto the age of 18 years.

(b),(c)&(d) Section 44 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for establishment or recognition of After Care Organizations for children between the age of 17 to 18 years who may stay in these organizations till the age of 20 years. These organizations are expected to enable the children to prepare themselves for an honest, industrious and useful life after they leave the children's homes. The Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments the need for full implementation of the provisions of the Act.